

Amendment(s) to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said covering comprising fiber-on-end fabric, said covering being coated on only the inside thereof with an airtight at least one~~ polymeric material; ~~wherein said covering is configured to form a substantially~~ capable of forming an air-tight seal ~~on the~~ with a limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, said covering configured to have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said covering comprising fabric[,]~~ coated on the inside thereof with at least one polymeric material capable of forming an air-tight seal with a limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, and docking means for attachment of an external device to the said covering, ~~said covering being coated on the inside thereof with said polymeric material; wherein said covering is configured to form a substantially air-tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned~~ configured to have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end,~~ said covering comprising fabric, a polymeric material capable of forming an air-tight seal with a limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, and locking means for attaching pads, wherein said ~~covering~~ fabric is coated on the inside thereof with said polymeric material; and wherein said covering is configured ~~to form a substantially air-tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned~~ to have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.

Claims 26-33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (previously presented): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~of~~ according to claim 24, wherein said external device is a prosthetic device.

Claim 35 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~of~~ according to claim 24, wherein the said docking means, comprises one or more of:

a pin, cable, strap, hook and loop type fastener, snap, or buckle.

Claim 36 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~of~~ according to claim 24, wherein the said docking means is incorporated by attachment of an adapter to the outside of the said covering.

Claim 37 (currently amended): ~~The sock~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~of~~ according to claim 23, wherein said ~~fiber-on-end~~ fabric comprises stretchable non-wovens.

Claim 38 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 24, wherein said covering ~~being~~ is

seamlessly coated directly on the inside thereof with a said at least one polymeric material.

Claim 39 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material has a thickness profile such that ~~the polymeric cushioning material~~ is thicker at a said closed end of ~~the~~ said covering than at an said open end.

Claim 40 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 24, wherein said covering is coated on the inside thereof with an uneven distribution of polymeric material, ~~said uneven distribution comprising~~ that results in a thinner posterior middle and upper portion, and a thicker distal anterior medial and anterior lateral portion.

Claim 41 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material is arranged in a ~~recess~~ recessed Achilles configuration.

Claim 42 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 24, wherein ~~the~~ said polymeric material is a thermoplastic gel composition having a Shore A hardness of between about 1-20.

Claim 43 (canceled).

Claim 44 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said covering comprising fiber-on-end fabric and~~ a polymeric material capable of forming an air-tight seal with

the limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, said covering being coated directly on the inside thereof with a said polymeric material; ~~wherein said covering is configured to form a substantially air-tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned~~, said covering configured to have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.

Claims 45-46 (canceled).

Claim 47 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end~~, said covering comprising fiber-on-end fabric and coated on the inside thereof with a non-foamed polymeric material capable of forming an air-tight seal with the limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, said covering ~~being coated on the inside thereof with a nonfoamed polymeric material~~; ~~wherein said covering is configured to form a substantially air-tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned~~ have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.

Claim 48 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end~~, said covering comprising fiber-on-end fabric and coated on the inside thereof with a cushioning polymeric material capable of forming an air-tight seal with the limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, said covering ~~being coated on the inside thereof with a cushioning polymeric material~~; ~~wherein said covering is configured to form a~~

~~substantially air tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned~~ have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.

Claim 49 (currently amended): A flexible, tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end,~~ said covering having consisting essentially of a block copolymer material capable of forming an air tight seal with the limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, and including a docking means for attachment of an external device to the said covering, and said covering comprises block copolymer; wherein said covering is configured to form a substantially air tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.

Claim 50 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, ~~said covering having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end,~~ said covering comprising fiber-on-end fabric and a polymeric material capable of forming an air tight seal with the limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, said covering configured to have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, and being made by a process comprising including the step(s) of coating an inside surface of the said fabric fiber-on-end fabric with a melt of said polymeric material; wherein said covering is configured to form a substantially air tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned.

Claims 51-53 (canceled).

Claim 54 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24,

wherein said polymeric material comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic elastomer, a thermoset elastomer, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 55 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises a block copolymer.

Claim 56 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises a block copolymer and mineral oil.

Claim 57 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises urethane.

Claim 58 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises rubber.

Claim 59 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises rubber and mineral oil.

Claim 60 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises a thermoset elastomer.

Claim 61 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises silicone.

Claim 62 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said fabric comprises fiber-on-end fabric.

Claim 63 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, having a length from closed end to open end of from 10-25 inches.

Claim 64 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material has a thickness varying from 0.150-0.500

inches.

Claim 65 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material ~~comprises~~ includes a biocide.

Claim 66 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material ~~comprises~~ includes a vitamin.

Claim 67 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~of~~ according to claim 25, wherein the said docking means comprises one or more of:

a pin, cable, strap, hook, snap, or buckle.

Claim 68 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 25, wherein said covering ~~being~~ is seamlessly coated directly on the inside thereof with a said polymeric material.

Claim 69 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material has a thickness profile ~~such that the polymeric cushioning material~~ is thicker at a said closed end of the covering than at an said open end.

Claim 70 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 25, wherein said ~~covering~~ fabric is coated on the inside thereof with an uneven distribution of polymeric material, ~~said uneven distribution comprising~~ that results in a thinner posterior middle and upper portion, and a thicker distal anterior medial and anterior lateral portion.

Claim 71 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric cushioning material is arranged in a ~~recess~~ recessed Achilles configuration.

Claim 72 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic elastomer, a thermoset elastomer, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 73 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises a block copolymer.

Claim 74 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises a block copolymer and mineral oil.

Claim 75 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises urethane.

Claim 76 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises rubber.

Claim 77 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises rubber and mineral oil.

Claim 78 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises a thermoset elastomer.

Claim 79 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises silicone.

Claim 80 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said fabric comprises fiber-on-end fabric.

Claim 81 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, having a length from closed end to open end of from 10-25 inches.

Claim 82 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25,

wherein said polymeric material has a thickness varying from 0.150-0.500 inches.

Claim 83 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material ~~comprises~~ includes a biocide.

Claim 84 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material ~~comprises~~ includes a vitamin.

Claim 85 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~of~~ according to claim 49, wherein the said docking means comprises one or more of:

a pin, cable, strap, hook, snap, or buckle.

Claim 86 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 49, wherein said covering ~~being seamlessly coated directly on the inside thereof with a~~ has a seamless polymeric material interior.

Claim 87 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 49, wherein said covering has a thickness profile ~~such that the covering is thicker at a closed end of the covering~~ thereof than at an open end.

Claim 88 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 49, wherein said covering has an uneven distribution of polymeric material, ~~said uneven distribution comprising~~ that results in a thinner posterior middle and upper portion, and a thicker distal anterior medial and anterior lateral portion.

Claim 89 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 49, wherein said covering is arranged in a ~~recess~~ recessed Achilles configuration.

Claim 90 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, wherein said covering further ~~comprises~~ includes mineral oil.

Claim 91 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, having a length from closed end to open end of from 10-25 inches.

Claim 92 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, wherein said covering has a thickness varying from 0.150-0.500 inches.

Claim 93 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, wherein said covering ~~comprises~~ further includes a biocide.

Claim 94 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, wherein said covering ~~comprises~~ further includes a vitamin.

Claim 95 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said fabric comprises a stretchable nonwoven.

Claim 96 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said fabric comprises a stretchable nonwoven.

Claim 97 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said covering is seamlessly coated directly on the inside thereof with said polymeric material.

Claim 98 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material is thicker at said closed end of said covering than at said open end.

Claim 99 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said fabric is coated on the inside thereof with an uneven distribution of polymeric material that results in a thinner posterior middle and upper portion, and a thicker distal anterior medial and anterior lateral portion.

Claim 100 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material is arranged in a recessed Achilles configuration.

Claim 101 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic elastomer, a thermoset elastomer, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 102 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises a block copolymer.

Claim 103 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises a block copolymer and mineral oil.

Claim 104 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises urethane.

Claim 105 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises rubber.

Claim 106 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises rubber and mineral oil.

Claim 107 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises a thermoset elastomer.

Claim 108 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises silicone.

Claim 109 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises a thermoplastic gel composition having a Shore A hardness of between about 1-20.

Claim 110 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material is a thermoplastic gel composition having a Shore 00 hardness of between about 1-100.

Claim 111 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said fabric comprises fiber-on-end fabric.

Claim 112 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said covering has a length from closed end to open end of from about 10-25 inches.

Claim 113 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material is of a thickness that varies from about 0.150-0.500 inches.

Claim 114 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material includes a biocide.

Claim 115 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material includes a vitamin.

Claim 116 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material is a thermoplastic gel composition having a Shore 00 hardness of between about 1-100.

Claim 117 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material is a thermoplastic gel composition having a Shore A hardness of between about 1-20.

Claim 118 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material is a thermoplastic gel composition having a Shore 00 hardness of between about 1-100.

Claim 119 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, wherein said block copolymer material has a Shore A hardness of between about 1-20.

Claim 120 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, wherein said block copolymer material has a Shore 00 hardness of between about 1-100.

Claim 121 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, further comprising a fabric outer surface.

Claim 122 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 121, wherein said fabric is a fiber-on-end fabric.

Claim 123 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 121, wherein said fabric comprises a stretchable nonwoven.